



## *Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa*

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*"MESKWAKI NATION"*

Director of the Office of Child Care  
Mary E. Switzer Building  
330 C Street SW, 4th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Meskwaki Child Care Program received funding under the CRRSA act. The funds will be used for child care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways:

### **Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)**

- Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide direct child care services, including child care subsidy assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farm and other food service workers, and/or other workers deemed essential or frontline during the response to coronavirus? If yes, describe.

Yes, the Tribal Lead Agency plans to use CRRSA funds to provide direct child care services, including child care subsidy assistance to workers deemed essential or frontline during the response to coronavirus. There has been an increase cost and demand for child care in the Tribal Lead Agency's service area which negatively impacts families and creates financial burdens. The funds will be issued as direct payments to child care providers serving Meskwaki Child Care Program Participants. Payment vouchers will be made on a weekly basis.

### **Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices**

- Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide resources, supplies, and/or technical assistance to child care providers to support implementation of health and safety practices and policies in line with guidance from State and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)? If yes, describe.

Yes, the Tribal Lead Agency plans to use CRRSA funds to provide resources, supplies, and/or technical assistance to child care providers in support of health and safety practices and policies in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The Tribal Lead Agency will use CRRSA funds to reimburse providers for items purchased in response to the health and safety practices from the CDC guidelines. If items have not already been purchased, and the child care provider identifies a need in line with CDC guidelines, the Tribal Lead Agency will issue direct payments to the vendor for the items.

### **Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers**

- Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to support the stability of the child care sector to help child care providers (program facilities and workforce) pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency? If yes, describe.

Yes, the Tribal Lead Agency plans to use CRRSA funds to support childcare providers who have an increased cost in operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Grants may be issued directly to the provider after indicating a need in direct relation to increased operating expenses. Documentation of the need may be in the form of a self-reported survey.

#### **Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic**

- As required in CRRSA, how does the lead agency plan to use a portion of funds appropriated in CRRSA to provide assistance to CCDF-eligible child care providers not participating in the subsidy system prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency?

Yes, the Tribal Lead Agency plans to use a portion of the CRRSA funds to provide assistance to CCDF-eligible child care providers not in the subsidy system prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Tribal Lead Agency is waiting on further guidance from the Office of Child Care in determining what providers would fit this criteria and ways to implement/utilize the CRRSA funds.

#### **Other**

- Does the lead agency plan to use a portion of CRRSA child care funds for any other activities or assistance not described above? If yes, describe.

Yes, the Tribal Lead Agency plans to use a portion of CRRSA funds to provide assistance to newly state-registered child care providers. The funds will be issued directly to the provider as a one-time payment to be used to help with start-up costs in providing child care services including use for additional health and safety items in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This will help support the increased need for child care providers in the Tribal Lead Agency's service area with a focus on serving the needs of essential workers and those negatively impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please contact Allison Lasley ([director.css@meskwaki-nsn.gov](mailto:director.css@meskwaki-nsn.gov)) by email or phone at 641-484-4444 with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Judith Bender  
Tribal Chairwoman